

## Claims:

1. A support (15) for a cartridge (10) provided with one or more electronically readable information carrying areas (121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127) characterized in that the support (15) for the cartridge (10) is at least partially constituted by one or more electrically connecting supports (151), each comprising a number of closely spaced mutually electrically insulated conductors (1511) embedded in an electrically insulating material (1512, 155) that stretches from one of the supporting surfaces of the cartridge to a contact area (163) for receiving and transferring the information, when said cartridge (10) is positioned in said support (15).

2. A support according to claim 1, characterized in that each of said one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251, 252; 351) is constituted by alternating layers of electrically conducting material (1511; 2511; 3511) of maximum thickness  $T_{c1}$  (640) and electrically insulating material (1512; 2512; 3512) of maximum thickness  $T_{i1}$  (respectively).

25 3. A support according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said support (15; 25; 35) is made of elastic materials.

30 4. A support according to any one of claims 1-3, characterized in that said one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251, 252; 351) are made of elastomeric materials.

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5. A support according to any one of claims 2-4, characterized in that said electrically conducting material (1511; 2511; 3511) consists of silicone rubber with a concentration of carbon black sufficient for electrical conduction.

6. A support according to any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that said cartridge (40) has an axial direction of symmetry (41), and said information carrying areas (401, 402; 403, 404; 405 406; 410, 411, 412, 413, 414) are located preferably in one axial end of the cartridge.

7. A support according to any one of claims 1-5, characterized in that said cartridge (40) has an axial direction of symmetry (41), and said information carrying areas (415) are located preferably in an axial direction of the cartridge covering only a limited angular sector (421).

8. A support according to any one of claims 1-7, characterized in that said support (15; 35) comprises one electrically connecting support (151; 351) preferably stretching in an axial direction of the cartridge (10; 30).

9. A support according to any one of claims 1-7, characterized in that said support (25; 70) comprises two or more electrically connecting supports (251, 252; 701, 702, 703) each stretching preferably in an axial direction (21; 72) of the cartridge (20; 71) and being located side by side along the radial periphery of the cartridge.

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10. A support according to any one of claims 1-9, characterized in that the surface of the support (15; 25; 35) facing towards the cartridge (10; 20; 30), including the one or more electrically connecting supports (151; 251, 252; 351), in an axial cross section correspond to the surface of the cartridge.

11. A support according to any one of claims 1-9, characterized in that the surface of the support (70) facing towards the cartridge (71), including the one or more electrically connecting supports (701, 702, 703), in an axial cross section essentially correspond to the surface of the cartridge, when said cartridge is positioned in said support.

12. A support according to any one of claims 1-11, characterized in that said cartridge (10) has an axial direction of symmetry (11), and said contact area (163) consists of groups of identical and regularly spaced electrically conducting pads (62) of width  $W_{cp}$  (620) in the direction of adjacent pads, adjacent pads being separated by an electrically insulating area of width  $D_{iacp}$  (621), and the following relations between said distances are fulfilled:  
 $D_{iacp} > 2 \cdot T_{cl}$ , and  
 $W_{cp} > T_{il} + T_{cl}$ .

13. A support according to any one of claims 1-12, characterized in that said cartridge (20) has an axial direction of symmetry (21), and said cartridge is provided with a multitude of rectangular, essentially parallel, identically sized in-

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formation carrying areas (810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860) of height Hica (87) in the direction of a circumference (80) of said axis of symmetry (21), said information carrying areas being spaced with equal mutual distance Dica (88) along the periphery of the cartridge in the direction of a circumference (80) of said axis of symmetry (21), and said supporting means (25) comprise two rectangular, essentially parallel, identical electrically connecting supports (251, 252; 81, 82) of height Hctm (85) in the direction perpendicular to the axis of symmetry of the cartridge, separated by an electrically insulating volume (255) of width Dctm (86) between the two electrically connecting supports, and the following relations between said distances are fulfilled:

15     $Hica < Dctm < 2 \cdot Hica + Dica$ , and  
        $Hctm < Dica < 2 \cdot Hctm + Dctm$ .

14. A support according to claim 13,  
       c h a r a c t e r i z e d   i n   t h a t

20    said information carrying areas (810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860) of height Hica (87) each consist of electrically conducting (8102) and electrically insulating (8101) rectangular patches provided at said predefined positions on said cartridge according to a binary representation of

25    said item of information, said patches (8101, 8102) having a width Wpda (89) abut each other, and the sum of the maximum thicknesses  $T_{c1}$  (640) and  $T_{i1}$  (630) of said alternating layers of electrically conducting (64) and electrically insulating (63) materials, respectively, constituting said electrically connecting supports (81, 82), is

30    less than the width Wpda (89) of said patches, thus fulfilling the following relation between said distances:  
        $Wpda > T_{i1} + T_{c1}$  .

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15. The use of a composite material, comprising a number of closely spaced mutually electrically insulated conductors (1511) embedded in an electrically insulating material (1512, 155),

5 c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that  
said composite material is used at least for the partial support of a cartridge (10) and for the transfer of an electronically readable information from information carrying areas (121; 122; 123; 124; 125; 126; 127) on said  
10 cartridge (10) to a contact area (163).

16. The use of a composite material according to claim 15  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that  
said closely spaced mutually electrically insulated conductors embedded in an electrically insulating material  
15 are constituted by alternating layers of electrically conducting material (1511) and electrically insulating material (1512), respectively.

20 17. The use of a composite material according to claim 16  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that  
said alternating layers of electrically conducting (1511) material and electrically insulating (1512) material, respectively are made of elastomeric materials.

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